



CALIFORNIA STATE THREAT ASSESSMENT CENTER

72-HOUR REPORT

17 MAY 2021

(U) CALIFORNIA

(U) Santa Monica – Fight Against Southern California Wildfire Continues, Arson Suspects Detained

(U) A wildfire burning in the parched brush of the Santa Monica Mountains grew to 1,325 acres Sunday, while about a thousand residents remained under mandatory evacuation orders and others prepared to leave under a warning, authorities said. The cause of the fire has been deemed “suspicious” and is under investigation, the fire department said. Arson investigators with the fire department and the Los Angeles Police Department identified one individual who was detained and released. Investigators then detained a second suspect and were questioning them Sunday evening, according to officials.

SOURCE: 17 May 2021, [MSN](#)

(U) NATIONAL

(U) District of Columbia – Officials Warn Extremists May Take Advantage of Easing Restrictions

(U) Washington – A national terrorism alert issued Friday warns that violent extremists may take advantage of the easing of pandemic restrictions to conduct attacks. The alert does not cite any specific threats. But it warns of potential danger from an increasingly complex and volatile mix that includes domestic terrorists inspired by various grievances, racial or ethnic hatred, and influences from abroad. Those threats were exacerbated by COVID-19, which spawned conspiracy theories and deepened anger at the government over the shutdown of the economy. As virus conditions improve, the alert says new dangers loom.

SOURCE: 14 May 2021, [AP](#)

(U) Maryland – Joint Base Andrews Reopens After Bomb Hoax, Suspect in Custody

(U) Prince George’s County – Joint Base Andrews in Maryland has given the all-clear after a man approached the main gate on Friday and falsely told guards he had a bomb in his car. Following procedure, base security forces personnel shut down the main gate and cleared the area of all personnel. An individual was taken into custody and was questioned by base security forces and partner law enforcement agencies. The man, a civilian with no military affiliation, arrived around 4:45 p.m. Friday. Live news video of the scene showed a sedan parked outside the main gate, where an explosive ordnance disposal airman wearing a protective suit checked the car alongside a bomb-inspection robot. Bomb-sniffing military dogs also swept the vehicle.

SOURCE: 17 May 2021, [Air Force Times](#)

(U) Florida – Florida Man Pleads Guilty to Facilitating Bomb-Making Video for ISIS

(U) St. Augustine – A Florida man is facing 20-years in federal prison for allegedly attempting to disseminate a bomb-making video for the Islamic State in Iraq and ash-Sham (ISIS). Romeo Xavier Langhorne, 31, of St. Augustine pleaded guilty Thursday of attempting to provide material support and resources for the group, according to the Department of Justice. Throughout 2018 and 2019, Langhorne affirmed his support on various social media accounts, posted ISIS-produced videos on his YouTube account, and chatted with other like-minded people about ISIS, according to the indictment.

SOURCE: 17 May 2021, [Orlando Sentinel](#)

(U) INTERNATIONAL

(U) Afghanistan – ISIS Claims Responsibility for Mosque Attack

(U) Kabul – ISIS claimed responsibility for Friday's attack on a mosque in Shakar Dara district in the Afghan capital Kabul, the group's Nasheer news agency said on Telegram on Saturday. At least 12 people were killed in the explosion at a mosque during Friday prayers as worshippers gathered for the Muslim festival of Eid al-Fitr, officials had said.

SOURCE: 15 May 2021, [Jerusalem Post](#)

(U) Ireland – Health Service Hit by 'Significant' Ransomware Attack

(U) Ireland's health care system was hit by a major ransomware attack on Friday, forcing its health service to shut down IT systems and locking many hospitals out of their computers, in what one government minister said was possibly the most serious cyber-attack in the country's history. The ransomware attack began overnight, targeting Ireland's Health Service Executive which said it had decided to shut down most of the IT systems as a precaution. Many hospitals and clinics reported on Friday they had lost access to their computer systems -- suddenly shut out of patients' records, appointment booking and email systems -- prompting some to cancel most non-urgent appointments. Those facilities said they had contingency plans in place, medical equipment was not impacted, and care was being given as normal to patients.

SOURCE: 17 May 2021, [ABC News](#)

(U) United Kingdom – British Extremist Who Spread Hatred of Minorities Admits Terrorism Charges

(U) Ashford – An extremist who encouraged fellow users of right-wing chat groups to carry out attacks on ethnic minorities has admitted 16 terrorism offences. Michael Nugent, 37, ran a number of groups on the messaging app Telegram, where he expressed his hatred of minorities and shared an edited video of the 2019 Christchurch mosque shootings in New Zealand. He shared explosives and firearms manuals and told members of his groups how to deliver bombs disguised as Amazon packages, London police said. Nugent, of Ashford, Surrey, in southern England, used different names in the chat rooms but police linked his online accounts to track him down.

SOURCE: 17 May 2021, [The National](#)

(U) PREPARED BY THE CALIFORNIA STATE THREAT ASSESSMENT CENTER.

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